

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 03534 241706Z

67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10

SSO-00 /069 W

----- 028758

R 241602Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3195

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3534

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJG POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 3510

SUMMARY: SOCIALIST-SPONSORED DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF PLURALISM TOOK PLACE EVENING JUNE 23 IN LISBON AND OPORTO. CROWD ESTIMATED AT 70-90,000 TURNED OUT IN LISBON. SOCIALISTS OBVIOUSLY WENT ALL OUT, AND SUCCESS OF DEMONSTRATION MAY HELP MODERATES IN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. MEANWHILE, COMMUNIST PARTY HAS ISSUED STATEMENT SUPPORTING JUNE 21 REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL STATEMENT AND CALLING FOR NEW EFFORT BY PARTIES TO ESTABLISH COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS. NOTHING NEW ON REPUBLICA/RADIO RENASCENCA. END SUMMARY.

1. SOCIALISTS DEMONSTRATE: SOCIALISTS (PS) FLEXED THEIR
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PAGE 02 LISBON 03534 241706Z

MUSCLES IN IMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATION IN DOWNTOWN LISBON

EVENING JUNE 23. PARALLEL DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE IN OPORTO SAME EVENING. CROWD ESTIMATED AT 70-90 THOUSAND TURNED OUT FOR LISBON DEMONSTRATION CALLED TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR PLURALISM, PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, AND ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM). ORDERLY DEMONSTRATORS DISPERSED IN EARLY HOURS JUNE 24 FOLLOWING BRIEF REMARKS BY PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES FROM BALCONY OF BELEM PALACE. CROWD WAS IN SOBER MOOD FOLLOWING WHAT MANY SOCIALISTS REGARD AS INCOMPLETE "VICTORY" FOR MODERATES SIGNIFIED BY JUNE 21 REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL STATEMENT. MOOD OF CROWD WAS REFLECTED IN CHANTS ("IF WE AREN'T THE PEOPLE, WHERE ARE THE PEOPLE?" AND "FREE REPUBLICA"). IN ADDITION TO SOCIALISTS, SIZEABLE CONTINGENTS REPRESENTING POPULAR DEMOCRATIC AND CENTER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES ALSO PARTICIPATED, AS DID SMALLER GROUPS FROM SEVERAL MINOR PARTIES, INCLUDING MARXIST-LENINIST SPLINTER OF COMMUNIST PARTY.

2. COVERAGE IN COMMUNIST-LINING MORNING PRESS (DIARIO DE NOTICIAS AND SEculo) JUNE 24 WAS OF LOW-KEY, BACK PAGE VARIETY IN CONTRAST TO FRONT-PAGE FULSOME TREATMENT OF PCP SPONSORED UNITARY RALLY IN SUPPORT OF AFM LAST MONTH. (COMMENT: SOCIALISTS OBVIOUSLY WENT ALL OUT. RESULT IS CONVINCING DEMONSTRATION THAT PS STILL CAN PUT PEOPLE IN THE STREETS IF NECESSARY. IN ADDITION TO BEING REAFFIRMATION OF PS POPULAR SUPPORT, DEMONSTRATION MAY FURTHER STRENGTHEN RESOLVE OF MODERATE ELEMENTS WITHIN RC AND GIVE PAUSE TO THOSE WITHIN RC WHO FAVOR BY-PASSING PARTIES. END COMMENT)

3. PCP STATEMENT STRESSES COOPERATION: POLITICAL COMMISSION OF COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) ISSUED FORMAL STATEMENT JUNE 23 SUPPORTING RC COMMUNIQUE AND CALLING FOR RENEWED EFFORTS BY PARTIES TO ESTABLISH COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP. TAKING AS ITS POINT OF DEPARTURE THE INITIAL GUARDED RESPONSE OF PARTY LEADER CUNHAL, STATEMENT STRESSED RC COMMUNIQUE'S ENDORSEMENT OF "CLASSLESS SOCIETY" TO BE ESTABLISHED VIA COLLECTIVICATION OF MEANS OF PRODUCTION. STATEMENT NOTED WITH APPROVAL THAT RC COMMUNIQUE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ROLE FOR PARTIES. BUT FOR COALITION ARRANGEMENTS TO WORK, STATEMENT CONTINUED, THERE MUST BE AN URGENT SHIFT IN INTER-PARTY RELATIONSHIPS. TO THIS END, STATEMENT PROPOSED FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE STEPS: (1) SUSPENSION OF RECIPROCAL

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PAGE 03 LISBON 03534 241706Z

ATTACKS; (2) FORMAL INTER-PARTY MEETINGS TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION; AND (3) PARALLEL EFFORTS BY PARTY WORKERS AT LOCAL LEVEL TO ESTABLISH COOPERATIVE RELATIONS. STATEMENT CONCLUDED WITH FAMILIAR PLUG FOR COMMITTEES FOR DEFENSE OF REVOLUTION (CDRS) AND SIMILAR UNITARY ACTION ORGANIZATIONS.

5. COMMENT: STATEMENT REPRESENTS LESS A SHIFT IN PARTY TACTICS THAN A VARIATION ON CURRENT DOMINANT THEMES. NOT

WISHING TO BE LEFT BEHIND BY RC REAFFIRMATION OF "PLURALISTIC PATH," PARTY IS NOW ACCENTUATING ITS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE EXTRA EFFORT TO COOPERATE WITH SOCIALISTS. OTHER THEMES--- FIDELITY TO ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, UNITARY ACTION THROUGH CDRS AND OTHER PCP-CONTROLLED "POPULAR" ORGANIZATIONS, AND ESSENTIALITY OF PCP PARTICIPATION IN REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WHATEVER ITS FORM--REMAIN.

6. REPUBLICA/RADIO RENASCENCA: SITUATION REMAINS ESSENTIALLY AS REPORTED REFTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON03534
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750219-0498
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750621/aaaaatjz.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 3510
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006